

Endangered Devils Hole Pupfish at Death Valley National Park

if we ignore them, maybe they'll go away

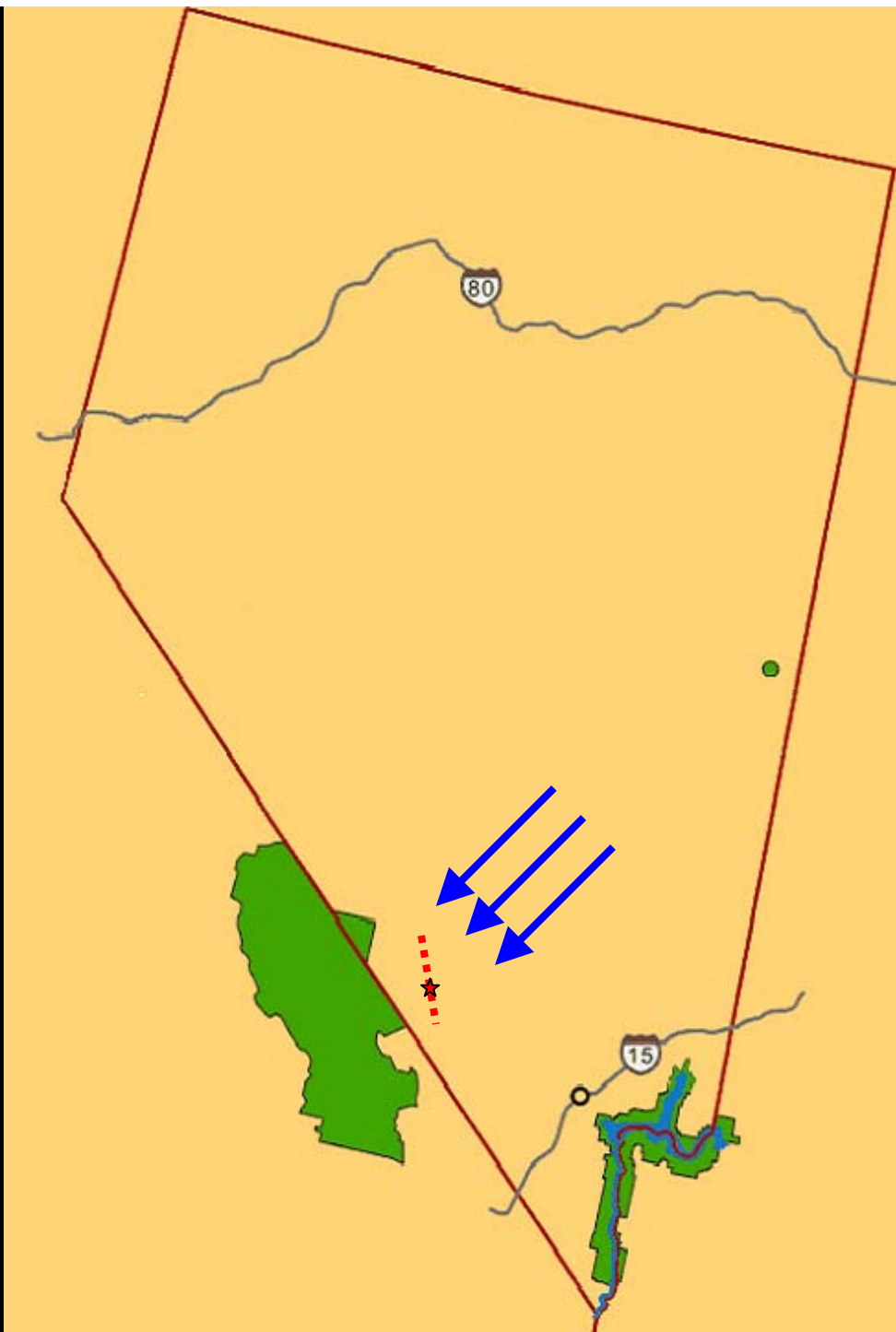


Marie Denn
Pacific West Region Aquatic Ecologist

Overview

- **Habitat and Natural History**
- **Early Conservation Efforts**
- **Recent Trends**









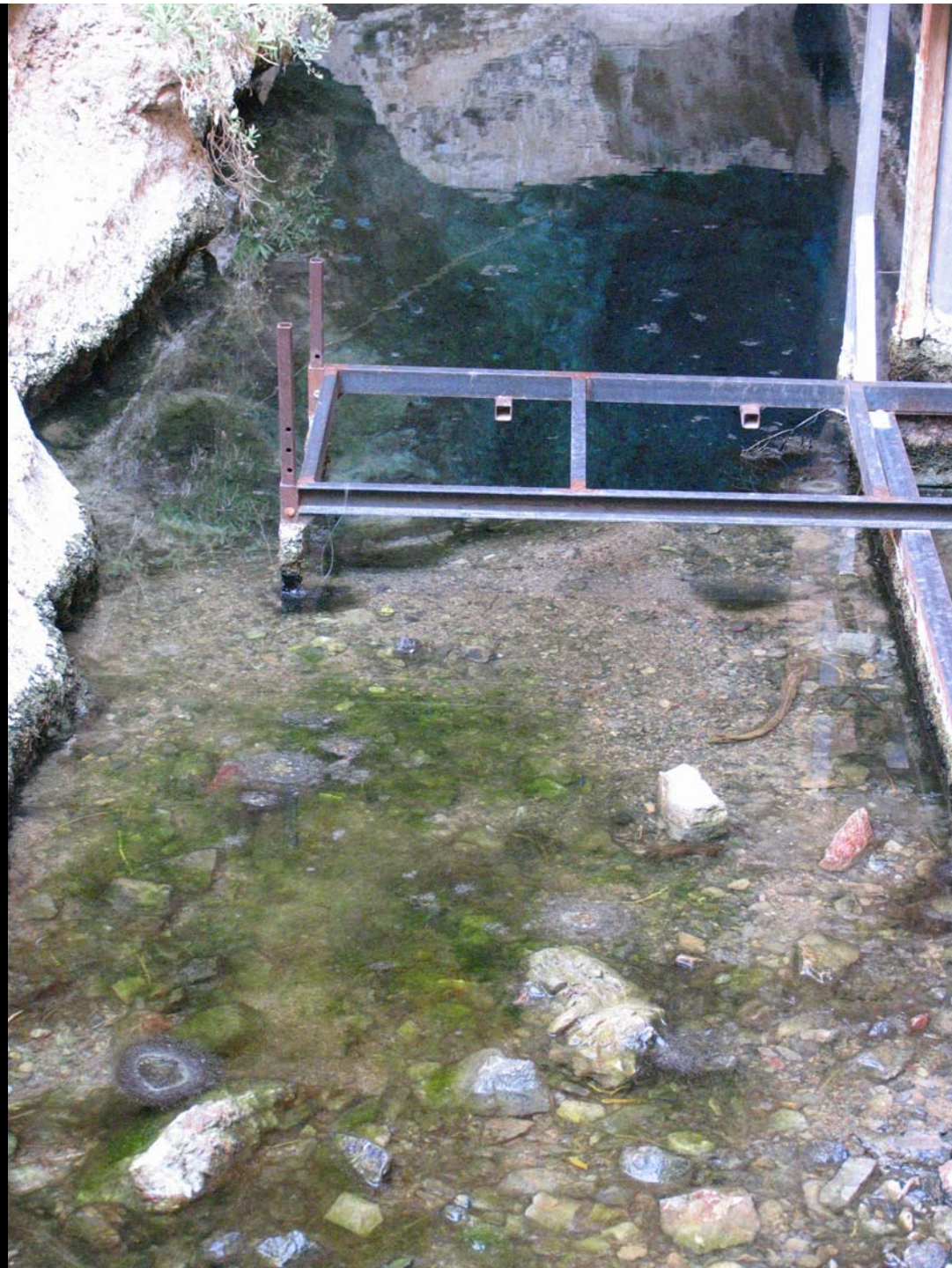




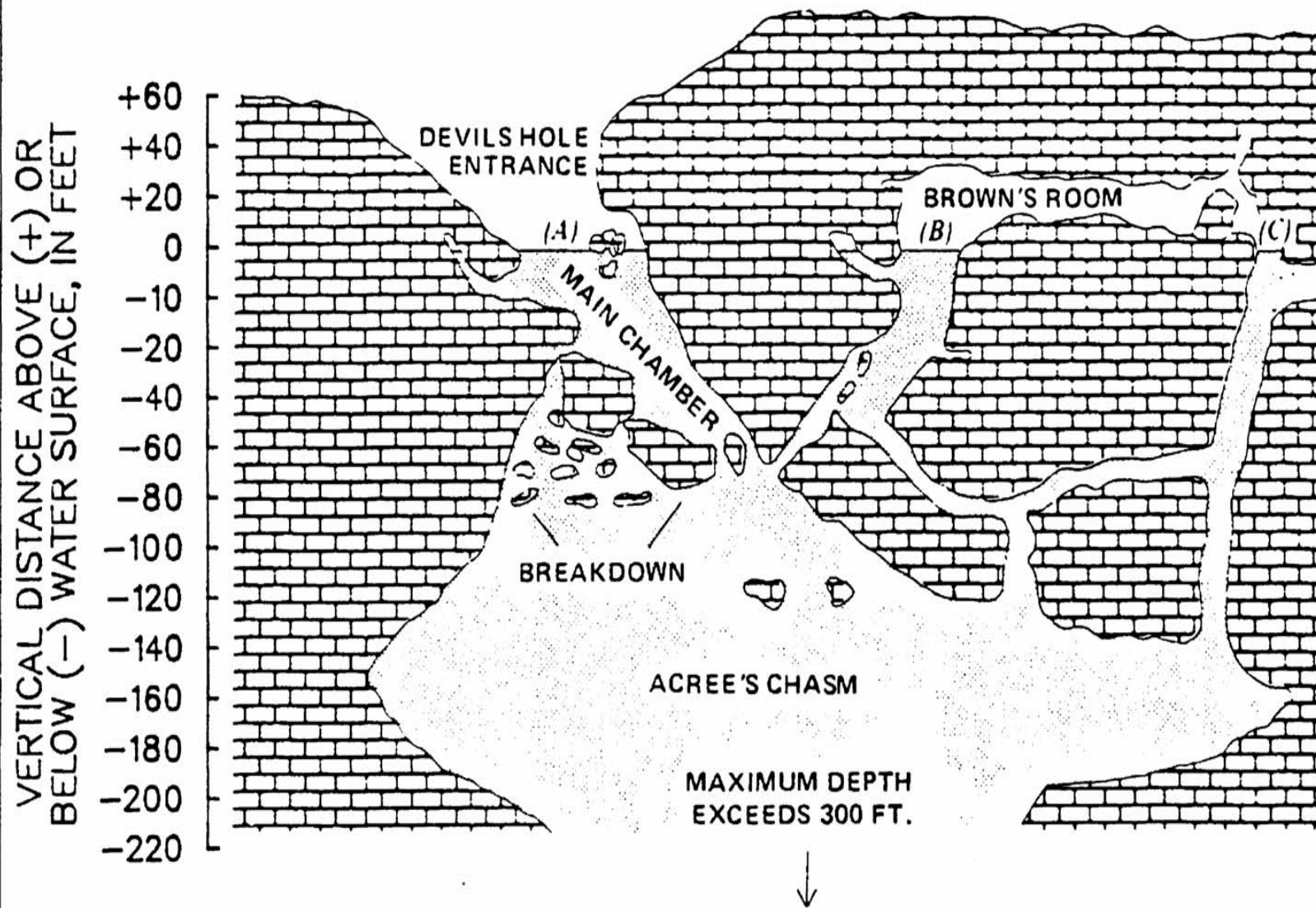


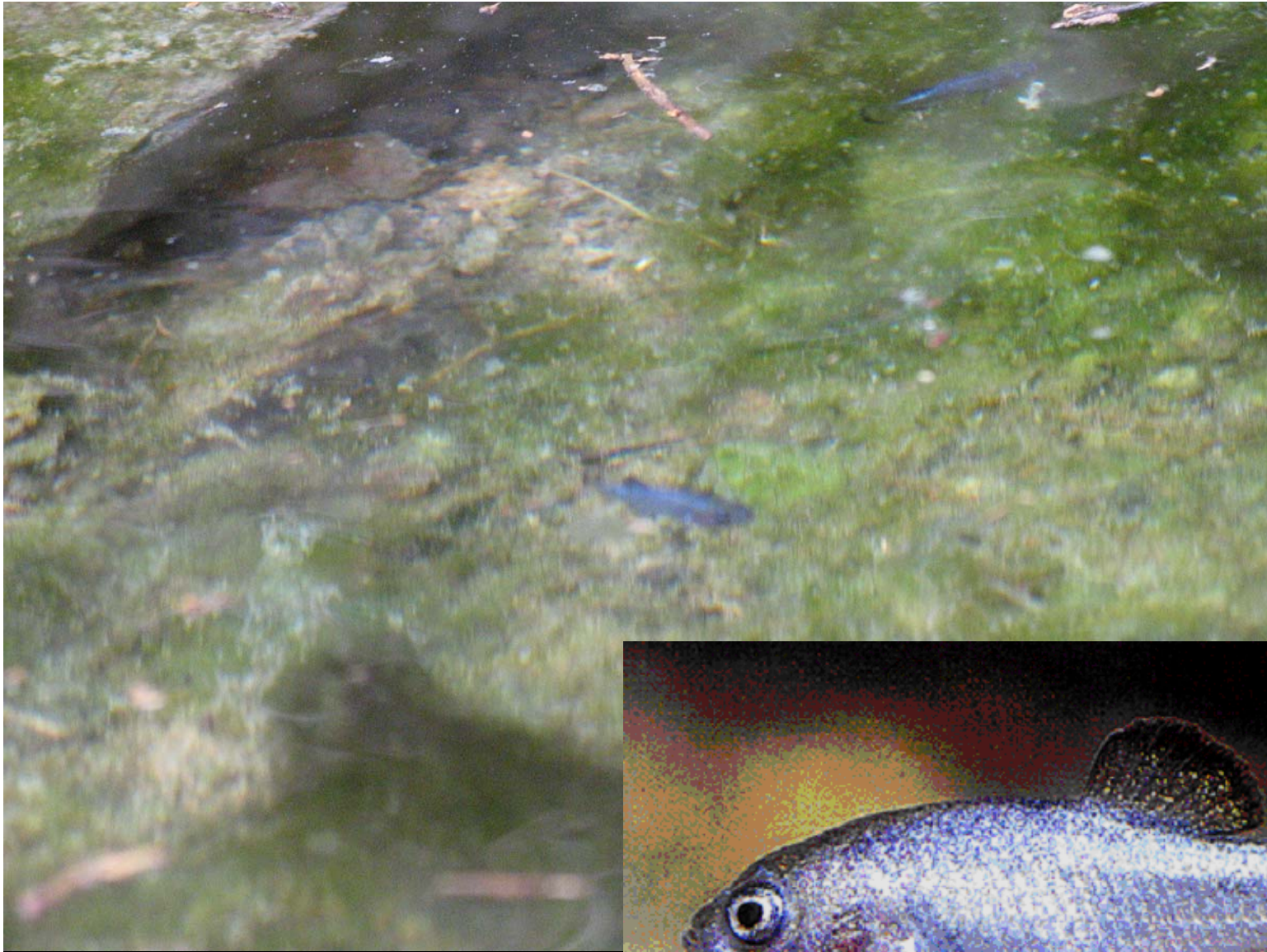






Cross Section of Devils Hole







**. . . the said pool (Devils Hole) is
of such outstanding scientific
importance that it should be given
special protection . . . evidenced
by the presence in the pool of a
peculiar race of desert fish . . .**

***- Proclamation Protecting Devils Hole,
President Truman, January 17, 1952***



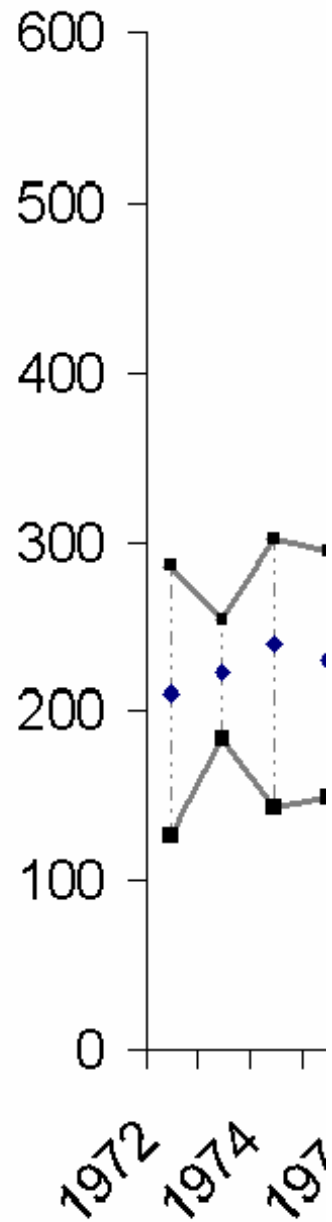




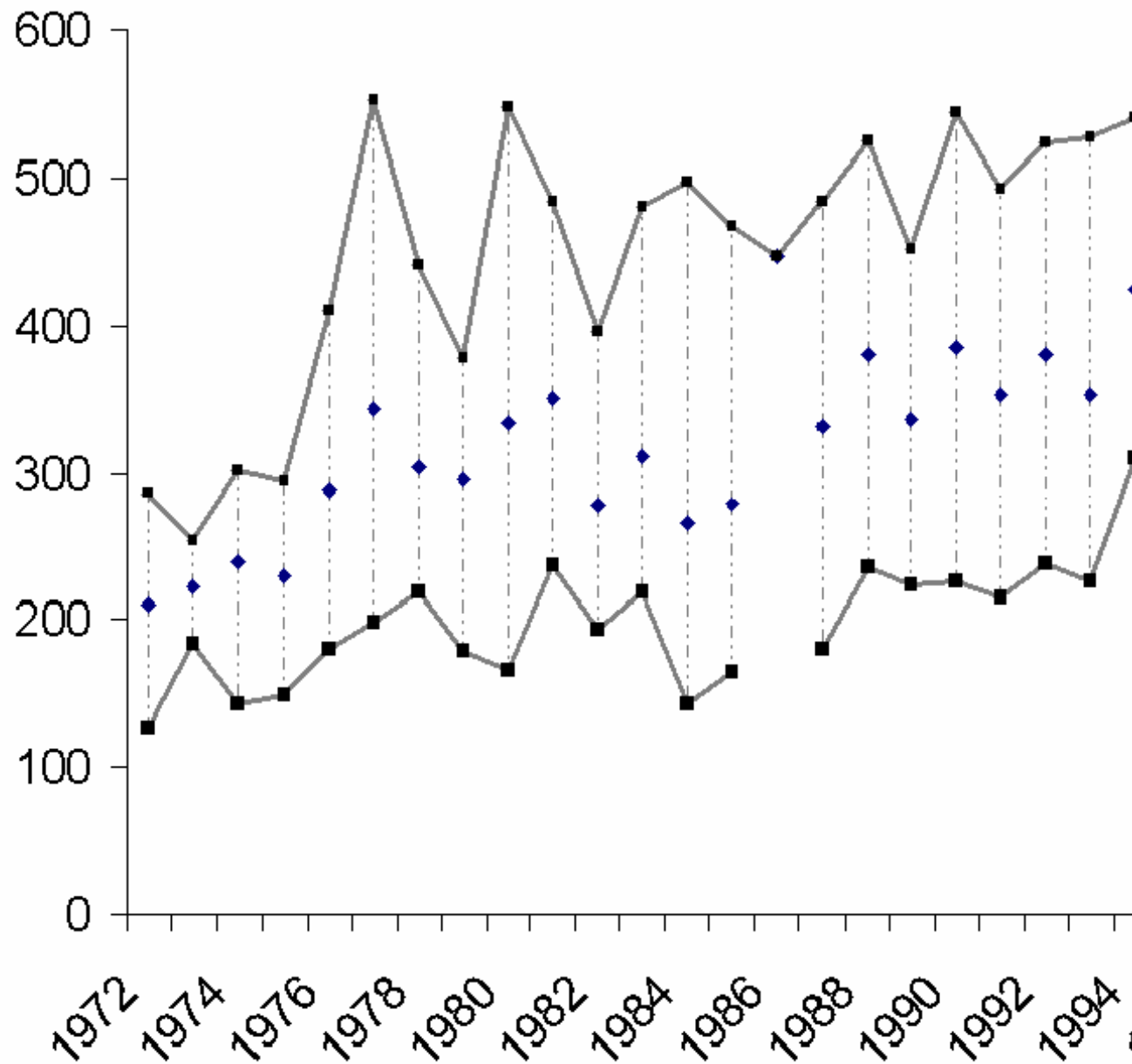
Cappaert vs. U.S. 1976

When the Federal Government reserves land, by implication it reserves water rights sufficient to accomplish the purposes of the reservation . . .

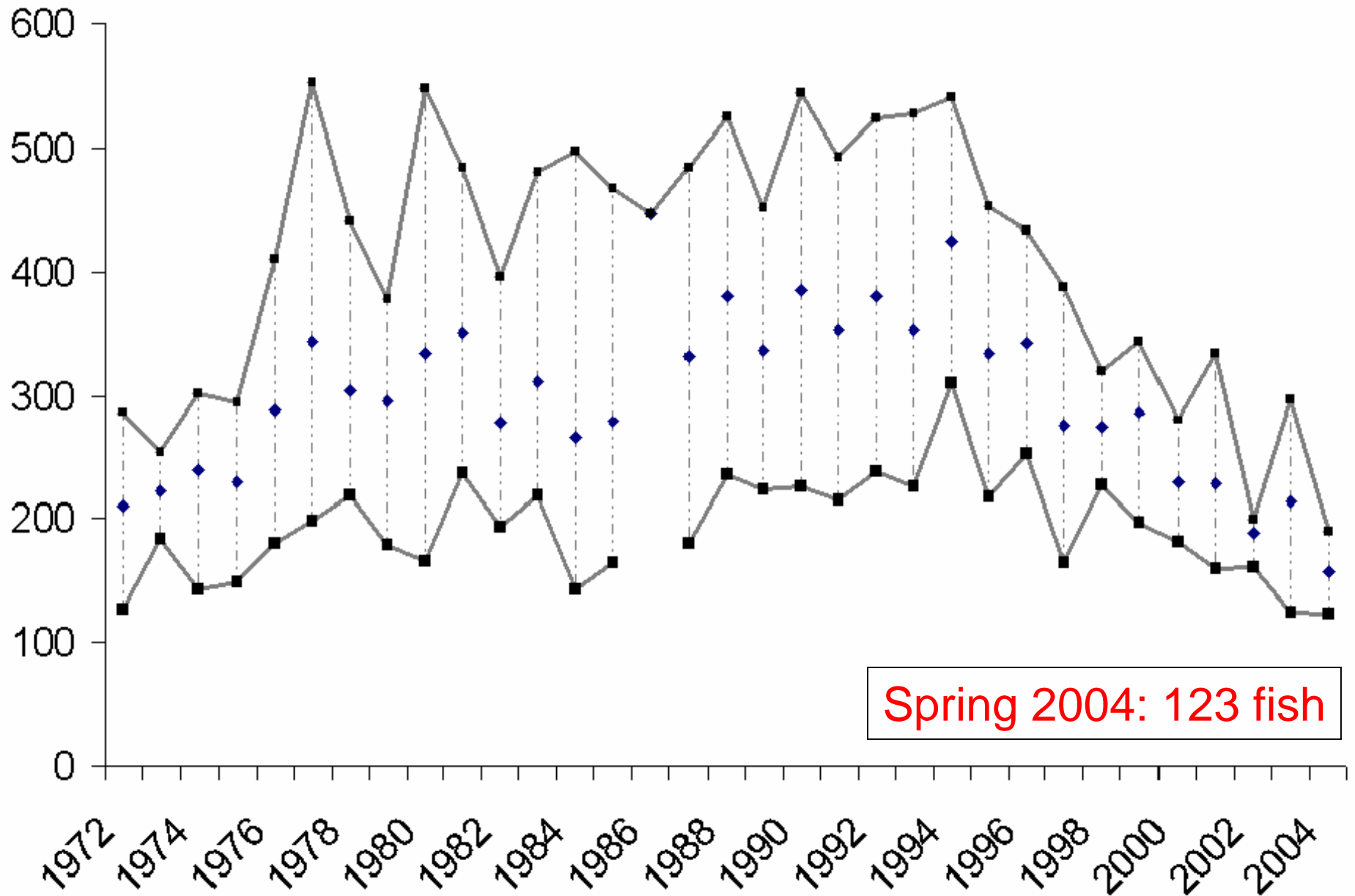
Devils Hole Population Census 1972 - 2004



Devils Hole Population Census 1972 - 2004



Devils Hole Population Census 1972 - 2004



Some Possible Culprits

- **Change in algal or invertebrate community?**
- **Gradual water level decline**
- **Change in spawning substrate?**
- **Change in light regime?**
- **???**











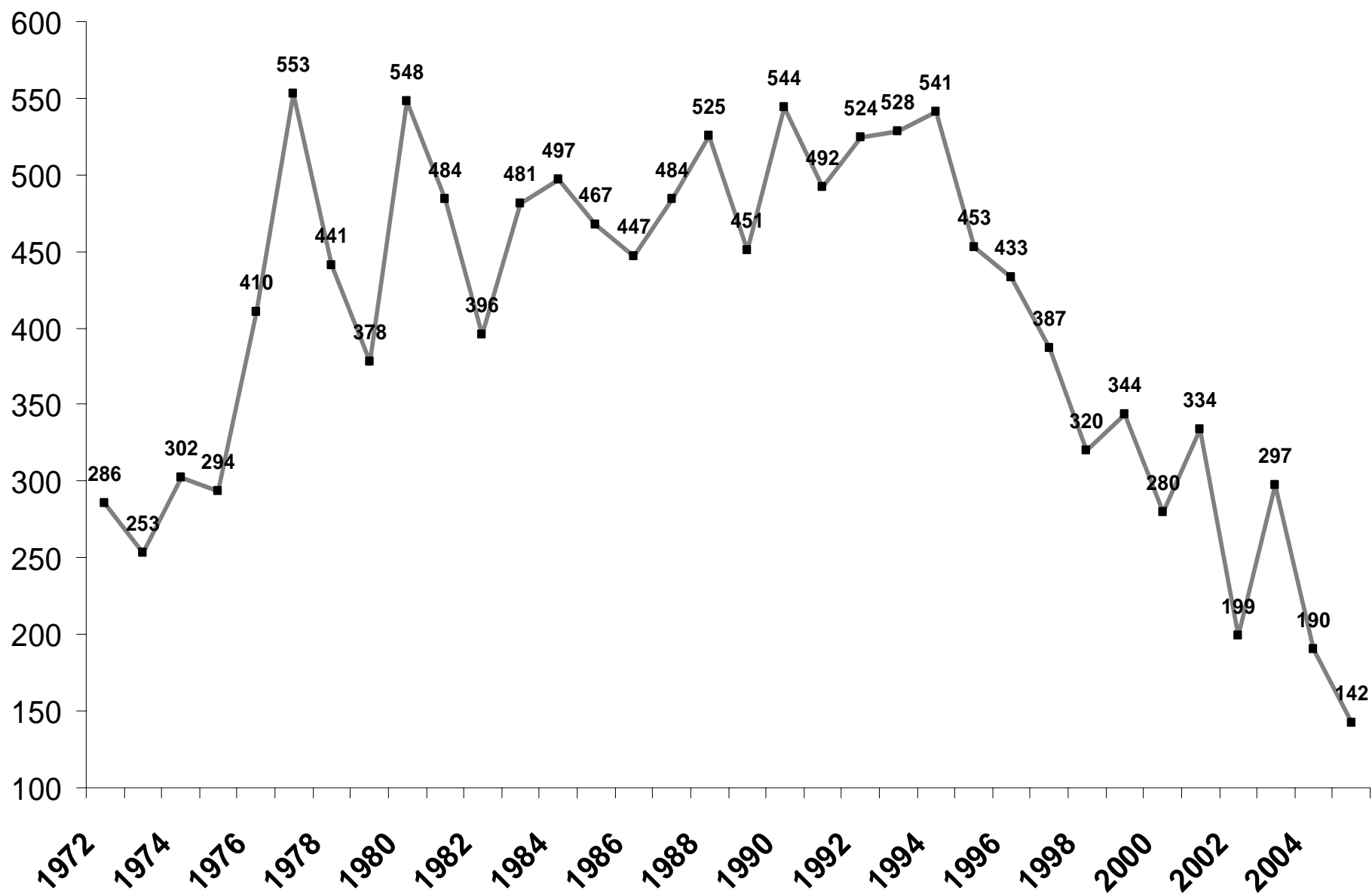




Current Conservation Work

- **Remove habitat-altering infrastructure**
- **Continue to research causes for the decline**
- **Protect the species in refugia and aquaria**

Devils Hole Pupfish Counts 1972-2004





The End
(or maybe not)